

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the figures.

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sugiyama et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,175,613. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites the second leak preventer does not include any perforation so as to prevent the feces from permeating or passing through the second leak preventer. Applicants respectfully assert that Sugiyama fails to teach or suggest these features.

The Office Action alleges that Sugiyama's top sheet 16 teaches the second leak preventer of claim 1. However, Sugiyama's top sheet 16 clearly contains a perforation (feces separator opening 17) that not only allows, but is intended to cause, feces to pass through the top sheet 16. Thus, Sugiyama fails to teach or suggest all of the features of independent claim 1.

Claims 2-11 are patentable by reason of their dependency from independent claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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